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LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 9 January 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Zivadin Jovanovic, addressed to you concerning the latest escalation of terrorist activities by the terrorist organization of the so-called "Kosovo Liberation Army" in Kosovo and Metohija, the Autonomous Province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 9 January 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you to inform you about the latest escalation of terrorist activity by Albanian separatists in the Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

On 8 January 1999, terrorists attacked from ambush a police patrol on regular duty near the village of Suva Reka, killing three police officers and wounding four. On the same day, north west of Kosovska Mitrovica, eight unarmed members of the Army of Yugoslavia were abducted by the terrorists of the so-called KLA, who continue keeping them hostage and threatening their lives.

These attacks, which were confirmed by the Kosovo Verification Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), clearly represent acts of terrorism and as such have brought about the consternation and the strongest condemnation of Yugoslav and international public opinion. They represent a rising aggressiveness of terrorists in recent months, aimed at blocking a political solution, provoking tensions in the province and retaliation by the security forces, thus attempting to create an excuse for foreign intervention.

Therefore, I request that the Security Council, proceeding from the resolutions on terrorism, condemn these terrorist acts, which cannot be tolerated, in the strongest terms. At the same time, I request that the Security Council call upon the Member States to treat the so-called KLA as a terrorist organization and undertake appropriate practical measures to immediately stop any external support to the terrorist KLA, including the supply of arms, training and financing for terrorist activities.

(Signed) Živadin JOVANOVIĆ